<u>kingdom of man</u> <u>as layered humanity</u> Part Nineteen

(Reproduction- Focused)

Meditating on the Bible

Matthew 24:4-18

And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. And ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars: see that ye be not troubled: for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places. All these are the beginning of sorrows.

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: Let him which is on the housetop not come down to take any thing out of his house: Neither let him which is in the field return back to take his clothes.

As we sit in the transverse section of religion, we think: Ah, what could be better than this?

Yes . . . communion with the LORD is a very peaceful place!

Communion with the LORD is the place that gives depth to these words of the Psalmist.

Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed. For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no

good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly. O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee. (Psalm 84:9-12)

It would be nice, if mankind could abide solely in this section of the kingdom of man; but, that would invalidate the section in which productivity flows. That cannot happen; since, productivity, too, is a permanent part of the life of the kingdom of man. Therefore, it seems that, there must be another transverse section of the kingdom of man. So, let us look at the space of reality that sits in close proximity to religion. There . . . over there . . . there is a section that was highlighted during the time of the development of the culture and national imprint of Israel.

And it came to pass after the plague, that the LORD spake unto Moses and unto Eleazar the son of Aaron the priest, saying, Take the sum of all the congregation of the children of Israel, from twenty years old and upward, throughout their fathers' house, all that are able to go to war in Israel. (Numbers 26:1-2)

We need to scan backward from this time, to a point that is closer to the Beginning . . . as we search for the first brick that was laid to pave this particular transverse section of the history of the kingdom of man. Ah, here it is.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. (Genesis 1:26)

These relative few words contain a very powerful message. These words introduce the opening of the section of, reproduction. As the LORD God Stands among the host of Heaven, He challenged them to invoke Creativity--or, at least, a subset of Creativity. Creativity is akin to Productivity; however, Creativity does not require external raw materials. This is seen in the several times that Creativity was unleashed during the Beginning. Among those times is this one.

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light: and there was light. (Genesis 1:1-3)

Please notice the instant nature of that activity. Please notice how; a thing is conceived as being possible, and then it is. Unfortunately for us, though; we do not have proprietary access to the kind of Power that is laced throughout Creativity. (For the world, this is a good thing.) That kind of Power is reserved for use by certain elect

servants of God. Here is one of the noblest of them.

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. (Revelation 19:11-16)

That kind of Power is such that, it accomplishes things of this order of magnitude.

And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. (Revelation 19:17-18)

Even though, we do not have ownership of that Power--such as is at the level of the Word of God--still, the LORD placed a portion of it in the kingdom of man, in the Beginning. That portion of the Power of God, as set in place by the Word, was given into the hands of Adam, as the raw material for the transverse section of, reproduction. At this point, I must ask you, not to become fixed on thoughts of biology; this was the error of the world of the time of Adam. In that day, we based our productive reproduction, as being associated with our progeny. We see that in the commentary about one of Cain's more beneficent actions.

And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden. And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch. (Genesis 4:16-17)

The concentration on biological reproduction also shaped our feelings of self-worth. In the following associated statement about a certain climate of self-worth, please note the physical component.

There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the

sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown. (Genesis 6:4)

As we look back in that time, just a bit; we see more evidence of the strong emphasis on biological prowess that was present in the struggle for self-esteem.

And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.

(Genesis 6:1-2)

We are not saying that, this type of behavior must be dismissed from our consideration of reproduction. These, too, are in the inaugural pathway that is in the transverse section of, reproduction. These are like those first few waffles that are used to prime the waffle iron. Though these first ones must be set aside; still, these initial portions of the kingdom of man's reproduction batter are necessary for the process to move to success. And, it is masterful how; as God includes peeks at the preparations that are such as the following one, the LORD keeps our attention focused on reproduction.

And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD. And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. (Genesis 4:1-2)

In Eve's declaration, we see that, there is a positive portion of self-esteem that may be triggered by ones reproductive activities. This is the same place, reproduction, from which this woman, Leah, achieved a welcome measure of self-esteem.

And when the LORD saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb: but Rachel was barren. And Leah conceived, and bare a son, and she called his name Reuben: for she said, Surely the LORD hath looked upon my affliction; now therefore my husband will love me.

And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Because the LORD hath heard I was hated, he hath therefore given me this son also: and she called his name Simeon.

And she conceived again, and bare a son; and said, Now this time will my husband be joined unto me, because I have born him three sons: therefore was his name called Levi.

And she conceived again, and bare a son: and she said, Now will I praise the LORD: therefore she called his name Judah; and left bearing. (Genesis 29:31-35)

Even though, we may receive self-esteem in our reproduction; still, we cannot stop

there. We need to push this up a notch; to tie that sort of positive self-esteem to the overall purpose for which adam (mankind) engages in biological reproduction. We need to explore reproduction, thusly: as it being a generalized funnel of our capabilities.

Reproduction channels our capabilities, as directing them into more diverse fields of human excellence. As we review the Beginning time of transition, from individualized purpose, to more inclusive reproduction; let us accept this principle, as originating in that time: reproduction is best done when there are two specific, chained factors present. The chained factors are: length of life in the section of reproduction, and, multiplicative capability that is available for use in that time. An example of the presence of these two factors is seen here.

And Methuselah lived an hundred eighty and seven years, and begat Lamech: And Methuselah lived after he begat Lamech seven hundred eighty and two years, and begat sons and daughters: And all the days of Methuselah were nine hundred sixty and nine years: and he died. (Genesis 5:25-27)

As you read through the surrounding records of the other lives of the time of the beginning of the kingdom of man, you see many other units of reproductive capability that are of a similar nature. As we stand in the present, we may marvel at the large size of the individual footprints of the early men of the Bible, as in the span of each lifetime of our first fathers. We must not let this lure us into thinking that; quantity is the only, or even, deciding, factor in the integrity of the reproductive outcome. We also need to focus on quality. To drive our mind in that direction, there is Scripture that tells us about the time when the LORD reduced the individual's duration in the span of reproductive capability . . .

And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them, That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose. And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.

(Genesis 6:1-3)

By noting the variance in the numbers, we see that; that is a great reduction, as compared to the *nine hundred sixty and nine years* of Methuselah's life, or, even, the shortest duration of that day, as was in the sojourn of Enoch in the kingdom of man, during his *three hundred sixty and five years* that he was here on earth, in the flesh. Even with that reduction, the LORD'S blessing of quality, as in the transverse section of reproduction's expectation for mankind, was not relaxed. The LORD still required the same measure of integrity in the productivity that fills reproduction, and God maintained, and still maintains, mankind's ability to perform at the required level. This Scripture gives us that assurance. For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. (Deuteronomy 10:17-18)

We have more to say about that; which, we will do in the next portion; as in, extended evaluation of the transverse section of, reproduction. An extension occurred, as the pathway started to become unattractive in the kingdom of man, because of humankind's neglect of it. In that day, we needed to return to this, the basic principle that must govern our reproductive efforts, as in our obligation to God: *the firstfruits of thy labours*. Here is a time of manifestation of that principle.

Three times thou shalt keep a feast unto me in the year.

Thou shalt keep the feast of unleavened bread: (thou shalt eat unleavened bread seven days, as I commanded thee, in the time appointed of the month Abib; for in it thou camest out from Egypt: and none shall appear before me empty:)

And the feast of harvest, the firstfruits of thy labours, which thou hast sown in the field:

and the feast of ingathering, which is in the end of the year, when thou hast gathered in thy labours out of the field.

(Exodus 23:14-16)

Next, in kingdom of man as layered humanity (Reproduction- Extended)